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## Editor's Note



Welcome to 2018! The past year has been very successful for the organization and we are excited about what this year has in store for us. I was very fortunate to spend quite a few months at our Srinagar office and accomplish the tasks that need my presence on ground. This included coordination with grant making agencies, skill development centers' evaluation and more importantly the conclusion of internship of eight students from Kashmir University.

Muzaffar Awan, a 6<sup>th</sup> grade dropout from remote village of Zampathri Shopian became the highlight of this year as he passed 12<sup>th</sup> examinations with decent grades. This was a fortifying moment for CHINAR as it was the result of 6 years of dedication, commitment and devotion towards our mission. His achievement uplifted the whole community and inspired many others to pursue their dreams. Muzaffar has now become a role model and teaches students from his community.

This year had a cracker start with scaling up our projects across child development, education and youth. With the expansion our programs, four new people joined our education and youth development teams, bringing in



# CHINAR Daleel

new ideas and experiences to the organization. In Kulgam, we added 19 more schools to our education program and launched Integrated Development Learning Programme in partnership with District administration. IDLP focuses on the holistic development of a child, physical, social and cognitive. Implemented on a pilot basis in two clusters, this project can potentially affect 4000 children in the age group of 0 to 18 years.

We conducted two capacity-building workshops for 80 teachers of newly adopted 19 schools in Kulgam district. In February, a two-day workshop school development planning was held at DIET Kulgam where goals and targets for next 3 years were clearly defined. In March, we organized teacher self-evaluation workshop, attended by 120 teachers and aimed at identifying training requirements and self-assessment of pedagogical gaps. Besides that, two annual distribution events were held at Shopian and Doda districts where children received books, stationery, nutrition and hygiene kits.

In our latest achievements, we saw tremendous progress in Warwan Valley with over 600 students attending our community learning centers. Children enjoy learning through digital content and play-way teaching methods. With

internet, we get regular updates from ground through online communication. Our students passed out 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade examinations with excellence. Our short film about the story of Ruheena was selected among top 30 entries for the international film competition on education.

In our youth vertical, we continue to collaborate with schools and colleges and inculcate a spirit of entrepreneurship among young students. We are also exploring livelihood schemes at national and state level, which will be helpful in income generation for unemployed youth. Preparations are underway to launch e-labs at two higher secondary institutions in Srinagar.

In this quarter, a group of eight students from Kashmir University completed their one-month internship successfully. We have already received a large number of applications for summer internships.

This edition covers the activities across child and youth development programmes in the first quarter of 2018. Any comments, opinions and encouragement will be highly appreciated!

*Afifa Lone*

*Information and communication Lead*



## CM SUPER-50 COACHING PROGRAM

CM's Super-50 is an initiative by Directorate of school Education, Kashmir (DSEK) where talented students of Kashmir division receive special coaching to qualify medical and engineering entrance exams like IIT-JEE, NEET and JK CET. However, the scheme was not successful last year due to lack of monitoring and supervision of Super 50 centers spread across 11 districts of the valley.



This year, CHINAR International signed a MoU with Avanti Learning Centers, a premier entrance-coaching provider, to be CHINAR's technical partner in imple-

menting the program in the region. CHINAR and Avanti Centers organized 8-day training for 160 teachers in Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics and Biology at State Institute of Education, Srinagar. An online portal system kept a track of the students' progress and ensured uniform completion of syllabus throughout the valley. All the centers would upload test scores of students-60 test papers conducted in above-mentioned four subjects. Crowdfunding campaigns like on Indiegogo and Milaap helped raise funds for program management of the Super-50 centers. Besides, we conducted regular monitoring visits to centers and submitted monthly progress reports to the education department.

## STUDENTS PASS CLASS 10<sup>TH</sup> & 12<sup>TH</sup> EXAMS WITH FLYING COLOURS

Students enrolled in CHINAR's programs qualified Class 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> exams with excellence. Mu-



zaffar Awan from Zampathri-a remote hilly village of Shopian had dropped out of school in 6<sup>th</sup> grade. We made continuous efforts to mainstream him towards schooling and he passed Class 12<sup>th</sup> exam with a first class. Another student, Shaista Bashir from Srinagar qualified her Class 12<sup>th</sup> exams with distinction. It was a joyful moment for the entire team who work extremely hard towards improving performance of children.

## DC KULGAM LAUNCHES CHINAR IDLP PROJECT

CHINAR launched the Integrated Development and Learning Project (IDLP) in partnership with District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Talat Parvez, in Malwan village of District Kulgam. Over 400 community members and district administration staff attended the event. IDLP focusses on the holistic development of children through implementation of health, social welfare, Integrated Child Development Scheme, school education and other child related schemes. This programme is being implemented on a

pilot basis in two clusters, Malwan Valley and DH Pora, which covers 4000 children in the age group of 0 - 18 years.



The project aims to improve health indicators of infants, strengthen early childhood education in Anganwadis, promote

value-based education and enhance learning outcomes in schools. It also aims to increase the exposure of students through career counseling and provide linkages with vocational and skill development institutions. Besides technical expertise, CHINAR will coordinate the project's planning and implementation in collaboration with the District Administration. Based on the evaluation of pilot, this model will be replicated across the state to impact huge number of children and youth.





## SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WORKSHOP

A two-day workshop on the Integrated Development and Learning Project (IDLP) was held in February at District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), Kulgam.



The workshop aimed at creating School Development Plans for the newly adopted 20 government schools in Kulgam with desired goals and targets for the next 3 years.

## TEACHER SELF-EVALUATION WORKSHOP

In March, we held a workshop on “Teacher self-evaluation” at two higher secondary schools in District Kulgam- HSS DK Marg and HSS Malwan. Attended by 120 teachers across two locations, the workshop aimed at identifying pedagogical gaps among teachers and fulfilling their training requirements. Principals from both the higher secondary schools were also present at the event. Teacher development roadmap was prepared in collaboration with Simple Education Foundation-a Delhi-based NGO working on quality improvement in schools to help teachers develop in six core areas- Visioning, building parent

Attended by 80 teachers from 20 schools in two clusters, Pahloo (Zone Kulgam) and DK Marg (Zone DH Pora), the workshop was inaugurated by Head of Department DIET- Abdul Gaffar Bhat, Principal HSS DK Marg and other education officials. Zonal Education Officer Kulgam, Idrees Ahmad Khan ensured full support in implementing the project.

The workshop focused on the introduction to CHINAR International, an overview of IDLP and orientation to school development plan framework. Member of Parliament, Nazir Ahmad Laway and District Development Commissioner Kul-



gam, Talat Parvaiz, graced the valedictory ceremony and awarded certificates to the participants. The DDC stressed the role of teachers in ensuring the holistic development of the child and the importance of converging all aspects related to the child to create maximum impact. The workshop concluded with schools presenting their school development plans.

CHINAR plans to create customized teacher development strategies based on their requirements instead of the one-size-fits-all approach to teacher training.

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participants. The DDC stressed the role of teachers in ensuring the holistic development of the child and the importance of converging all aspects related to the child to create maximum impact. The workshop concluded with schools presenting their school development plans.

## PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG YOUTH

CHINAR team conducted youth engagement session with under-graduate students of different colleges from Srinagar city. This initiative focusses on promoting entrepreneurship at school and college level and aware youth about employment opportunities other than government jobs.

We have developed a strong relationship with the school authorities at high school Nowhatta and Girls Higher Secondary School Kothibagh to establish an e-lab and support students to learn business and generate income through entrepreneurship.

*“E-labs provide a laboratory environment to students where they experience the entire entrepreneurial value chain, right from production to the marketing strategies and also experiment their business ideas.”*



## Towards transformational change

CHINAR International is thrilled to see the progress made in remote Warwan Valley during winters. More than 600 students from classes 1<sup>st</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> are regularly attending community-learning centers set up by CHINAR last year. Children are fully engaged in our program and want to continue attending our centers even when the schools have re-opened. In our meetings with community, we also realized that parents are now taking interest in their child's education.



Thanks to VSAT, we now take daily updates from the ground through video conferencing and online communication besides having interactive sessions with children enrolled in our centers. For the first time in the history of Warwan Valley, 10th class students checked their results online. Twenty young women successfully completed training course in cutting and tailoring and are now capable of stitching frocks, salwar-kameez and pherans. The entire community has been actively engaged in this remote and neglected part of J&K and we hope to continue this programme with the same passion and dedication.

**CHINARs first short film titled, "Ruheena, a girl with a lot of grit and tenacity" was selected among the Top 30 entries in "EduDoc: Stories of Education". This film is about the story of Ruheena-a 7<sup>th</sup> grade dropout girl from Zampathri mainstreamed by CHINAR towards regular schooling through education and livelihood support. Recently, she passed Class 10<sup>th</sup> exams with first division and became an inspiration for other girls in the community.**

## Internships

Eight interns from social work department at Kashmir University successfully completed their one-month internship at CHINAR. Interns worked across all the three verticals- Child Support, Quality Education and Youth Development. The interns prepared 14 case studies of children and families across four districts, devised learning outcomes-based assessment tools for students and undertook research in livelihoods opportunities in Kashmir with a focus on engaging government schemes. At the end of internship, interns presented their work and shared their experiences working with the organization.



*CHINAR International (CI) is a child welfare and community development non-profit organization working in two areas: quality education for children and empowerment of marginal communities. However, when the floods of September 2014 hit the Valley, CHINAR International jumped into disaster relief activities as well.*

### **Vision:**

*Peace, prosperity and progress in conflict areas of the world.*

### Contact Us:

[www.chinarinternational.org](http://www.chinarinternational.org)

[www.facebook.com/chinar.international](https://www.facebook.com/chinar.international)

Email—[info@chinarinternational.org](mailto:info@chinarinternational.org)

Twitter: CHINAR\_Int

Donate online at [www.chinarinternational.org](http://www.chinarinternational.org) or send us a check (in the name of CHINAR International) to our USA or Kashmir office.

### USA Office:

1037 Sterling road, Suite 201,  
Herndon, VA-20170  
Phone: +1703-468-1010

### Kashmir Office:

145 Nanda Estate  
Shivpora, Srinagar 190004 (J&K)  
Phone:91-194-2430898

### Delhi Office:

Sector 44, Plot No. 115, 5th Floor  
(near Hotel Ramada)  
Gurgaon, Haryana 122003

